

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-05 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07
TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
DOEE-00 SSM-03 IO-13 PA-01 /123 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:D E ZWEIFEL:MM
APPROVED BY NEA:N A VELIOTES
NEA/IAI:G KULICK
L/NEA:D SMALL
NEA/EGY:D O NEWBERRY

-----011827 080354Z /64

O P 080303Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059041

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PBOR, IS, EG. US

SUBJECT: INCIDENT INVOLVING AMOCO DRILLING RIG

REF: CAIRO 7378

1. DEPARTMENT HAS DISCUSSED INCIDENT REPORTED IN REFTL
WITH AMOCO VICE PRESIDENT HENRY BOSWELL. BOSWELL STATED
THAT INCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN BLOCK 373-2 OF AMOCO CONCESSION
AREA, SOME 4000 FEET WEST OF "MEDIAN LINE". AMOCO COUNSEL
SUBSEQUENTLY GAVE COORDINATES (AS BEST AS CAN BE DETER-
MINED BASED ON AVAILABLE INFORMATION) AS 27 DEGREES, 59
MINUTES, 10 SECONDS NORTH LATITUDE AND 33 DEGREES, 37
MINUTES, 38 SECONDS EAST LONGITUDE. ACCORDING TO OUR PLOT-
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TING, THIS LOCATION IS CLEARLY ON EGYPTIAN SIDE OF "MEDIAN
LINE".

2. BOSWELL'S ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT CLOSELY PARALLELED THAT
GIVEN IN REFTL. CONTRARY TO RUBASH'S POSITION, HOWEVER,
BOSWELL REQUESTED USG TAKE UP MATTER WITH GOI SEEKING
AVOIDANCE OF ANY RECURRENCE

3. DEPARTMENT AGREED THAT WE WOULD DO SO, SINCE SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD BE ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH OUR EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH GOI IN WHICH WE ALERTED THEM TO AMOCO PLANS (STATE 56357 AND TEL AVIV 2970).

4. ACCORDINGLY, REQUEST THAT EMBASSY TEL AVIV SEEK AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS WITH APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIALS. YOU SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--ALTHOUGH USG DOES NOT RECOGNIZE VALIDITY OF "MEDIAN" ESTABLISHED UNILATERALLY BY GOI, WE ASSUME THAT GOI POLICY HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF NOT CONTESTING GOE-SPONSORED EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION ACTIVITY WEST OF THAT LINE.

--BASED ON OUR BEST INFORMATION, THE EARLY MARCH INCIDENT INVOLVING AMOCO RIG 511 TOOK PLACE AT A POINT CLEARLY TO THE WEST OF THE SO-CALLED "MEDIAN LINE".

--IN THE INTEREST OF AVOIDING SUCH AN INCIDENT, WE HAD UNDERTAKEN TO INFORM THE GOI IN ADVANCE OF AMOCO'S ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA.

--WE HOPE THAT THE GOI WILL TAKE WHATEVER MEASURES MAY BE NECESSARY TO INSURE THAT THERE IS NO RECURRENCE OF INCIDENTS OF THIS KIND. VANCE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HARASSMENT, PERSONNEL, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, OFFSHORE DRILLING, GULFS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE059041
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: D E ZWEIFEL:MM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780103-0860
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780392/aaaaczty.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: adf70fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CAIRO 7378
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 aug 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3402014
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCIDENT INVOLVING AMOCO DRILLING RIG
TAGS: ENRG, PBOR, IS, EG, US, ARAMCO
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/adf70fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014